

Attorney Docket 57557US004
U.S.S.N. 10/501,251

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A telephone interview was conducted between applicant's representative Robert Showalter and Examiner Osele on December 13, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner carefully explained the manner in which he is combining the Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata references in his rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-25. Applicant appreciates the courtesy of the interview.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of WO 01/25077 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,748,993 to Shinozaki et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,585,023 to Azuhata. With this amendment, claim 2 has been canceled and its limitations have been added to claim 1. It is submitted that no new issues are raised by this amendment as the limitations added to claim 1 were previously recited in claim 2, which claim was set out in the previous Amendment filed by applicants on August 16, 2005.

Further in this paper, a clarifying amendment has been made to claim 25. As is clear from originally filed claim 2, the tape holder and the tape attacher share a common adjustable mechanism, i.e., block 23. This is also clear from the embodiments illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4, where the common structure of the tape holder adjustable mechanism and the tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprises the block 23, see paragraphs 0053, 0058 and 0060 of published application US 2005/0000658 A1. In claim 25, the tape attacher first adjustable mechanism may correspond to block 23. As noted in paragraph 0060, the tape attacher in the Fig. 4 embodiment includes an additional adjustable mechanism (i.e., a second adjustable mechanism), namely, springs 33, see also claim 3. It is submitted that the clarifying amendment to claim 25 does not raise new issues. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is respectfully requested.

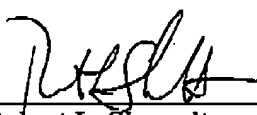
The final Office Action states with regard to the §103 prior art rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-24, "Shinozaki et al. fails to show a third adjustable mechanism for the tape attacher," see page 2 of the final Office Action. Azuhata discloses a tape holder comprising a tape guide plate 11, a tape attacher comprising a pressure roller 12 and a jig guide member comprising rollers 26 on a sub-frame 20. The adjustable mechanism associated with the jig guide member comprises the sub-frame 20, guide rods 22 and springs 25. The adjustable mechanism associated with the pressure roller 12 comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20. The tape holder adjustable

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mechanism comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20. The Azuhata apparatus lacks a jig guide member adjustable mechanism which is separate from at least one of the tape holder and the tape attacher adjustable mechanism and wherein the adjustable mechanism of the tape holder and the adjustable mechanism of the tape attacher are the same mechanism. Instead, the same adjustable mechanism, i.e., the spring-biased sub-frame 20, is associated with each of the tape holder, the tape attacher and the jig guide member in the Azuhata device. As noted in the final Office Action, Shinozaki et al. fail to show an adjustable mechanism for the tape attacher. To have the jig guide adjustable mechanism separate from the tape holder adjustable mechanism and the tape attacher adjustable mechanism is believed to be advantageous. This aspect of the present invention is clearly not disclosed, taught or suggested by Shinozaki et al. or Azuhata, whether taken singly or in combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-25 define patentably over the Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata patents.

In view of the above remarks, applicant submits that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-25 define patentably over the prior art. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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